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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 20 | Humidity 29% Sunny Sensex 74,742 | Nifty 22,666 | Gold 70,752 | Silver 81,821 | Dollar 83.29 | 5.22

HOLIDAY NOTICE Our offices and press will remain closed on Tuesday on account of Ugadi festival. So you'll miss seeing us on **Wednesday, April 10.** Log on to **www.bangaloremirror.com** or follow **@BangaloreMirror** on Twitter for all the news and updates

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Auto-rickshaws, instead of aiding last-mile mobility, still pose access challenge for citizens by blatantly refusing rides

A RIDE YOU CAN'T REFUSE

'Revise auto-rickshaw fare uniformly across Karnataka'

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as the conundrum of auto-rickshaws refusing to go on hire on certain routes continues year after year, experts have urged the government to look at alternate solutions if enforcement cannot be ensured.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police recorded 1,351 cases of refusal by auto-rickshaw drivers to go for rides on certain routes.

Auto-rickshaws that form the bulk of last-mile connectivity mobility have been a challenging experience for passengers to access.

Passengers face issues with refusing rides to refusal to use the meters by drivers. Apart from aggregator platforms, enforcement of the rules has been challenging.

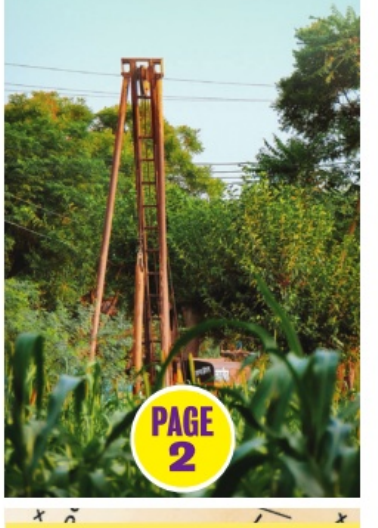
As of February 29, 2024, 1,351 cases have been registered for refusal to go for hire by Bangalore Traffic Police. The cases constitute nearly 87.89 per cent of last year's cases.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"RTO officials and traffic police should conduct regular checks and ensure enforcement of rules
— Rudramurthy, Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union

Death traps

Lax monitoring of defunct borewells



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Board & confused

Results out... or maybe not...

PAGE 3

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Art fair

Shop for your Ugadi and Ramzan needs at 'Meena Bazaar,' a 10-day display and sale of artefacts and household materials with more than 100 varieties of stalls. Actor Bhoomi Shetty inaugurated the festival, where artisans from different parts of India have put up their stalls. The splendorous spread of handicrafts and artefacts is a feast to the eyes, catering to all ages with different types of fabrics and dress materials, incense sticks made of sandalwood, pooja items, automatic liquid, attars and perfumes, and hats of Hyderabad and Kashmir on display and sale. **When: Until April 14**
Where: Chithrakala Parishat

02 Jump into 3D

Calling all young inventors and creators, aged 10–18! Dive into the world of 3D design and printing with an interactive workshop, start from scratch, and learn the thrilling process of bringing your wildest ideas to life in 3D form and having hands-on experience in 3D printing. From initial design to creating amazing finished products, this workshop is your chance to unleash your creativity. **When: April 10, 10 am**
Where: Parsec, Jayanagar

03 Letter to your future self

Have you heard of adventurers and explorers finding buried treasures, or have you ever found buried treasure yourself? Wouldn't it be so exciting to find your own hidden pot of gold? So join in for an interesting and fun activity at the launch of Vidya Varadarajan's book "The Mystery of the Graveyard Gold," where she will help you with making and stowing away your own treasure for you to discover later, in the form of a letter to your future self! **When: April 13, 4 pm; Where: Atta Galatta**

Festive shoppers' stop

A vendor arranges flowers, in anticipation of a rush of pre-festival shoppers, on Monday. People shop for flowers, mango leaves and other items for Ugadi that falls on Tuesday

Pin blame, take action to fix borewell death traps

Activists say officials' laxity in monitoring defunct borewells leading to tragedies

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Defunct and abandoned borewells in the North Karnataka region continue to be death traps for unwary children due to a lack of monitoring and complete negligence on the part of the authorities concerned.

Since 2000, the state has recorded the highest number of these unfortunate incidents. There have been reportedly eight borewell incidents that have taken place in this region since then and only two children have made it out alive. those incidents. The district administration has been lodging complaints with the police against the parents whose children fell into abandoned borewells.

A case has been filed at the Indi Police Station against the landowner and borewell agency for negligence in connection with the recent incident at Lachyan village in Vijayapura, where a two-year-old boy fell into an abandoned borewell and was rescued after a 21-hour operation by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel. It is believed that the names of the child's parents have been removed from the accused list by the police. Meanwhile, child and human rights activists said that it is the responsibility of the panchayat development officer, tahsildar and deputy commissioner of the respective district to ensure the closure of these defunct borewells.

File photo of SDRF and other emergency services personnel rescuing a two-year-old boy who fell into a borewell in Lachayan village in Vijayapura on April 4

In order to urge the state administration to prevent these borewell mishaps that result in the deaths of innocent children in the state, Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has written a letter to the chairman of the organisation. "The land owner and borewell agency should take the responsibility to close the abandoned or defunct borewells scientifically. Stringent action should be initiated against them if they fail to do so. Local bodies should supervise the borewells and assign revenue inspectors to conduct an audit on the existing borewells and recommend for future course of action based on the audits. Watchdog committees for children's rights have to create awareness on how abandoned borewells are posing danger to children," said Thippeswamy in the letter to the KSCPCR chairman.

> **"The land owner and borewell agency should take the responsibility to close the abandoned or defunct borewells scientifically**
> – Thippeswamy KT, KSCPCR

Expressing a similar opinion, Siddalingegowda, chairperson of World Human Rights Seva Kendra said that the police should not register a case against the parents whose child fell into the abandoned borewell. He has written letters to Alok Mohan, director general and inspector general of police (DG & IGP) and to the superintendent of police (SP) of Vijayapura district to register a case against the deputy commissioner of Vijayapura, deputy director of geology department, senior geologist, and others for the borewell incident which took place at Lachyan village of Indi taluk. He has also appealed to the DG & IGP and SP of Vijayapura to recover the expenses of the rescue operation from these officers.

Board & confused: RESULTS OUT... OR MAYBE NOT

Supreme Court stays results for Classes 5,8,9, but schools had already declared it

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No exam has created as much confusion as the Board exams for grades five, eight, and nine. While many schools had already declared results for these grades on Monday, by the afternoon, the Supreme Court stayed the result process. Supreme Court Advocate V Dhananjay said, "The Board examinations for Standards 5, 8, 9, and 11 in Karnataka have been completely suspended by the Supreme Court.

All processes related to evaluation and result announcements have been halted. Parents will not receive any information regarding the results, and the results themselves cannot be utilized for any purpose.

The announcement of the results has been put on hold. This order was issued by the Bench comprising Justices Bela Trivedi and Pankaj Mittal. However, at its core, this matter concerns approximately 30 lakh children and around 70 lakh parents, teachers, and school staff members."

Recognised Unaided Private Schools Association (RUPSA) president Lokesh Talikatte welcomed the Supreme Court directive. "Additionally, any examination conducted in violation of the RTE Act is now considered invalid according to this ruling. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has stated that the results for classes 3, 5, 8, and 9 will not be published, and even if they are, they will not hold any recognition."

In light of these developments, Talikatte stressed the importance of taking immediate action to address the confusion that has arisen among parents regarding their children's examination results. He urged the officials of the department to strictly adhere to the provisions outlined in the Right to Education Act.

This legal framework is crucial for ensuring that educational practices are in line with established standards and regulations. "The interim ruling from the Supreme Court has significant implications for the education sector, particularly concerning the validity of exam results and the adherence to legal guidelines. It underscores the importance of upholding the principles of the RTE Act to safeguard the rights and interests of students and parents alike.

> **"Now, the education department has to clarify what the next course of action will be**

There is a call to action for education authorities to navigate this situation effectively and in accordance with the law," he added.

D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, said, many educational institutions have already declared results for grades one to nine on Monday.

"Two days ago, we had received valued answer scripts, and in many educational institutions, they have already declared results for grades five, eight, and nine. Answer scripts filled with errors were not announced and withheld, and results were announced for other students. Now, we have received news the Supreme Court has stayed the results. By then, the results have been announced, leading to confusion. The education department has to clarify what the next course of action will be."

Error

Earlier, school teachers and students have alleged that the evaluation of answer scripts was rushed, leading to numerous errors. However, government officials have defended the evaluation process, stating that it was conducted fairly.

The controversy has seen legal interventions, with the examinations initially halted by the High Court but subsequently allowed to proceed.

However, a temporary suspension was later granted by the Supreme Court, adding to the confusion and uncertainty surrounding the exams.

Educationists say that overall, the 'board' exams for grades five, eight, and nine in Karnataka have sparked widespread debate and criticism, highlighting issues related to evaluation quality.

BMTC e-bus battery overheating creates concern

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A recent incident of overheating of a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC)'s electric bus has raised concerns about safety. BMTC officials say that the incident of overheating is being investigated by manufacturers.

In the first since the launch of EV buses in the BMTC fleet in 2021, this bus' battery was reported to have got overheated on April 5 and the fire detection and suppression system was activated. The bus was docked at Bidadi Depot and was charging when the incident happened. With the FDSS activated, smoke arose from the bus.

"The bus did not catch fire but the FDSS was activated due to overheating of the battery. The released carbon dioxide as a result of the FDSS activation gave it the appearance of fire. The manufacturers will conduct tests and identify the reason for the overheating. They will be submitting a report to BMTC," said an official.

According to BMTC officials, the EV bus in question belonged to Switch Mobility, an EV venture of Ashok Leyland. The particular bus had already covered 1,18000 km when the incident happened. Switch Mobility operates 300 EV buses with all buses travelling 67,500 km per day. It is also the highest kilometres covered by any operator under GCC. These 300 buses were scheduled for long-distance routes from Bengaluru to Bidadi, Hoskote and Attibele. In this regard, BMTC has identified 14 routes.

Of the 6,147 buses under the BMTC fleet, there are 5,643 diesel and 503 electric buses. There are 90 Midi 9Mtr Non AC buses, 300 of 12 Mtr Non AC buses, and 113 of 12 Mtr low floor Non AC buses.

In its larger attempts to go green, BMTC has received approval for the procurement of 320 non-AC electric buses, 120 AC electric buses, and 10 double-decker AC buses under the GCC model.

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Heatwave hits, vendors feel the 'heat' of losses

Heat waves cripple businesses, prompting demands for government intervention and protective measures to safeguard livelihoods

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Heat waves are having an adverse impact on street vendors in the city. They said that the unprecedented heat waves are not only affecting their health but also their livelihood. They said that their business has decreased by less than 50 per cent due to the heat wave.

"I am a street vendor selling pooja items at Vijayanagar. I used to sell items worth Rs 6,000 per day prior to summer. Now, I am able to sell items worth Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 per day. The income is not sufficient to make both ends meet. The items are damaged due to the heat. I need an umbrella to protect myself and the items from the scorching sun. The colour of kumkum and turmeric powder is fading away due to the sun," said Manje Gowda, a street vendor.

Expressing a similar opinion, R. Palani, a street vendor in Gandhi Bazaar, said that he used to sell bags worth Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 per day but now he is only able to sell bags worth Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,500 a day due to lack of demand. "Not many people are coming here to shop due to the heat. It has become tough for me to sell bags," said Palani.

Meanwhile, the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) wrote a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, the Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration, and the Chief Commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) highlighting the difficulties of street vendors and urged them to take measures to protect their rights during the heatwave in Karnataka.

The AICCTU, in a letter, stated that the heatwave has resulted in street vendors across the State being forced to vend in challenging conditions and in some cases being unable to vend. "This has a direct impact on the livelihoods of thousands of vendors. Section 31 of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, mandates that the government take steps to ensure welfare schemes for street vendors," said PP Appanna of AICCTU, in the letter.

The AICCTU has demanded the government and the BBMP provide umbrellas to all the street vendors and make arrangements to protect them from the heatwave. It has also demanded the authorities to give a one-time allowance of Rs 5,000 each to all the street vendors for April and May as business is badly affected due to the heatwave and demanded urban bodies to supply drinking water at all markets and keep all parks open throughout the day to enable vendors to take rest and take up planting of saplings from June on a war footing to ensure a long-term solution.

KAUSHIK JN

Street vendors are unable to sell their fresh produce as fewer customers are visiting their carts due to the heat

BM had reported on the plight of vendors due to the worsening heatwave on April 8

Change working hours

Nirmala M of AICCTU wrote a letter to the government authorities to announce half-day work for pourakarmikas in Bengaluru and other cities across the state as the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority has issued an advisory suggesting people stay indoors during the peak temperatures, between noon and 3 pm. "I have appealed to the authorities to announce half-day work with a weekly off immediately, without any pay deductions. I have also asked authorities to provide additional breaks during working hours for pourakarmikas and to provide drinking water, ORS, and buttermilk on a daily basis. The authorities have to provide eye-shades, caps, hats, umbrellas, and other necessary equipment to protect them from the heatwave," said Nirmala.

Painting the town white: Cooler trees for hotter times

Volunteers painting trees with the cooling paint

| Melvin Mathew
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With the heat increasing in Bengaluru, some citizens are taking the initiative to protect the trees by applying 'cooling paint' on them. Nearly 30 trees in Yelahanka New Town were painted by volunteers.

Volunteers of Bengaluru Hudugura and residents of Yelahanka New Town decided to paint the trees white owing to the peak summer conditions in the city. While humans and animals are suffering from the heat amidst a scattered water crisis in the city, urban trees also face the heat. Trees in urban areas suffer from poor maintenance, and the 'cooling paint' can help increase the life of trees.

"Today, our volunteers along with some residents, painted 30 trees with the 'cooling paint.' During peak summers, trees in the urban spaces do not have enough shade like in the wild. These trees are also not properly maintained. Some of the trees have been hollowed out by termites. We have decided to apply the 'cooling paint.' The 'cooling paint' is made of Pyrethrin, organophosphate, and malathion combination with Neem oil, wheat flour, and a small quantity of Surya cem whitewash powder for white colour," said Vinod Kartavya of Bengaluru Hudugaru.

> **"We noticed that many trees are in a terrible state. Additionally, nobody allows new trees to grow. It's vital to ensure the protection of the trees** – Vinod, volunteer, Kartavya of Bengaluru Hudugaru

The volunteers noticed the poor state of the trees while conducting their other initiatives like nail-free trees. "We noticed that many trees are in a terrible state. Additionally, nobody allows for new trees to grow. It's vital to ensure the protection of the trees," he added. The group is planning to paint more trees every Sunday. "Today, we painted 30 trees and we are planning to paint every Sunday. We have planned for more painting in Indiranagar, Shanthinagar, and KR Puram for the next few weeks," he added.

Environmentalists commented that such measures have been followed in ancient times. "It's similar to ancient practice and is also very cost-effective in protecting trees. It's helpful to ward away unwanted insects and increase the life of trees. But there should be sufficient space provided for the growth of trees and specific focus should be on watering and maintaining the trees. In the olden times, they used to apply limestone to trees to increase life, reduce infestation, and increase the visibility of the trees," said Vijay Nishanth, an environmentalist.

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Pavement takeover

BTM Layout

The pedestrian path near 7th Cross, 7th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, MICO Colony, has been completely taken over by a private owner to serve as a ramp to the basement.

Toilet trouble

Gangamma Circle

The E-toilet by BBMP near Kammagondanahalli, on the way to Jalahalli cross after Gangama Circle is defunct. It needs to be repaired to be put back into use, which would benefit the public.

Pothole problems

Byadarahalli

The 60-ft road in BEL Layout 2nd Stage, Byadarahalli, Magadi Road, is riddled with potholes, a condition that has persisted for nearly two years. Despite numerous complaints, no action has been taken to address the issue.

BDA in tight corner over corner sites

Concerns rise over proposed fund allocation in infrastructure development within Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

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The proposal by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to borrow around Rs 1,000 crore from public sector banks by mortgaging 2,500 vacant corner sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout is being opposed by those who have bought sites within the layout.

The Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum (NKLOF) wrote a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on April 6, appealing to him to direct the BDA to utilise the funds generated by mortgaging the corner vacant sites for the completion of developmental works within Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, rather than proposing to allocate those funds for the development of other layouts managed by the BDA.

"The BDA is at liberty to generate funds for the development of layouts under its jurisdiction. However, its decision to allocate funds raised by mortgaging vacant corner sites of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout for the development of other layouts is concerning," the NKLOF stated in the letter to the Chief Minister.

Condition of a portion of land in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

The letter mentioned that the BDA has allocated sites to 10,000 allottees since 2016, collecting the cost of sites as per market price. "The BDA has auctioned approximately 2,500 corner sites, and most of the civic amenity (CA) sites have also been distributed. All pending developmental works could have been completed had the BDA utilised the funds generated by auctioning the corner sites and allocating the CA sites," the letter stated.

It further highlighted that individuals who have purchased sites in some blocks of the layout are encountering difficulties in constructing their homes due to the absence of basic amenities such as roads, electricity, and water supply. "The construction of 30 ft, 40 ft, and 50 ft roads is limited to only a few blocks within the layout. Most of the electrical equipment installed within the layout is being stolen due to the absence of electricity. The work on the electrical sub-station remains incomplete, and the tender for the construction of four sub-stations is yet to be floated," the letter explained.

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar, in a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State Election Commission on April 6, urged measures to halt the BDA from settling contractors' bills for works at Shivaram Karanth Layout using funds from mortgaging corner sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. He highlighted concerns over this plan, which emerged after the model code of conduct came into effect on March 15. Kumar emphasised the need for the BDA to refrain from making any payments to contractors until after the Lok Sabha elections.

MDMA bust: Contraband worth Rs 4 crore seized

During the weekly press briefing on Monday, the police commissioner addressed recent operations conducted by various wings of the Central Crime Branch (CCB). The Narcotics Wing successfully apprehended a foreign national involved in trafficking banned MDMA crystals, seizing 4 kg of the substance valued at Rs 4 crore. A case was filed under the NDPS Act at Bagalgunte Police Station.

Additionally, the Women Protection Wing achieved a significant breakthrough by capturing five suspects engaged in fraudulent activities, targeting trusts and organisations with false promises of higher CSR funds through cash payments. The accused were found in possession of fake notes amounting to Rs 30,91,60,000, along with Rs 23,49,800 in genuine cash.

On April 1, Kadugodi Police Station detained a suspect linked to a mobile theft case, recovering 15 mobile phones from various brands valued at Rs 8,50,000. Furthermore, the Narcotics Wing arrested an individual from Assam for drug trafficking, confiscating 5.5 kg of Ganja worth Rs 10,00,000.

Bengaluru police also intensified crackdown on hookah bars following government's ban, conducting raids and apprehending involved individuals. —Ahna Prakash

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Vanishing forests and rising elephant deaths

Four dead in past 36 hours, efforts are being made to free up encroachments

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Officials and workers at the site near a deceased elephant

As many as four elephants have died in the forest regions of southeastern Karnataka within the past 36 hours. One elephant was discovered deceased in the Cauvery River that flows through the Gopinatham forest, situated on the border between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Surendra, the deputy conservator of forests at Cauvery Wild Sanctuary, mentioned that the elephant appeared to have slipped and fallen into the water. However, a definitive cause of death awaits confirmation through forensic analysis.

Wildlife activist and former member of the state wildlife board, Joseph Hoover, said, "Another elephant, an 11-year-old tusker, died near Kanakapura, adjacent to Bannerghatta National Park. Ganesh, the assistant CF for Kanakapura division, reported that the tusker's intestine was obstructed due to undigested mangoes, leading to its demise. Additionally, a tuskless male elephant passed away in the Kodihalli range of Bannerghatta National Park, while another elephant died from dehydration in Ramnagar on Sunday."

Wildlife activists said that wild elephants are in perilous danger, especially in and around Bengaluru. Illegal snares pose a threat to these animals, causing wounds that often require care. Forest department officials mentioned that the elephant corridor would not only prevent human-animal conflicts but also reduce financial burdens. Last year, a wild elephant died near the Kanakapura road after being hit by a BMTC bus. This incident occurred on the elephant corridor leading towards Bannerghatta. While it may sound strange to Bengalureans that there is an elephant corridor around the city, frequent elephant sightings indicate that the concrete jungle has encroached upon the real jungle, putting animals at risk. These incidents have pressurised the forest department to take up the initiative to create a secure elephant corridor around Bengaluru.

Some time ago, the Bengaluru district administration completed a survey of elephant corridors in the city, including the surrounding areas of Bannerghatta National Park. This aimed to clear illegal encroachments and develop an elephant corridor. A senior official said, "We conducted a survey in Shivanahalli village, survey number 69, covering 1,000 acres around Bannerghatta National Park.

> **"An eco-sensitive zone within a one-kilometre radius of the elephant corridor has been identified, with restrictions on certain activities** –Senior official

The forest department must now decide on the best ways to protect the elephants. Shivanahalli, a revenue village, cannot be evicted, and the forest department must decide on the next course of action. Efforts are being made to free up encroachments, especially agricultural ones. An eco-sensitive zone within a one-kilometre radius of the elephant corridor has been identified, with restrictions on certain activities. Noise pollution in the area has been controlled, and there are plans to restrict vehicle movements at night, similar to Bandipur and Nagarahole. Alternatives for commuters need to be identified, and if vehicle movement can't be restricted at night, measures like signboards and speed breakers are considered. Government lands are being repurposed for colleges, hostels, waste processing units, and other utilities."

Various organisations have demanded the completion of the survey for the 1,000 acres of the elephant corridor and the release of 232 acres of land to the forest department. Green activists stress the importance of protecting Bannerghatta. It is reported that around 3,000 farmers in and around Sakleshpur have expressed willingness to sell their land for creating an elephant corridor. Forest officials consider this a welcome move that should be replicated elsewhere.

Welfare drive for four paws

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An animal welfare donation drive was organised by a group of volunteers from April 5 to 7, where the volunteers residing in their society complexes spread the message about the need to donate for the welfare of animals. By Sunday (April 7) morning, a total of 15 apartment complexes in the Sarjapur area had participated in the donation drive.

The Sarjapur Chapter of St Broseph Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, played a key role in conducting the drive. The volunteers collected donation items such as dog and cat food, rice, treats, leashes, collars, used bed sheets, and towels over the first two days. "All volunteers met at a common point to segregate all the items into separate categories before transporting them to three animal shelters: Mylos Rescue, Animal Rights Fund, and Sudha Shelter Home. In total, 155 kg of rice, 51 kg of dog food, six boxes and bags of dog essentials, and two bags of cat supplies were collected," said Leslie, animal welfare coordinator, Sarjapur Chapter, St Broseph Foundation.

The volunteers were very happy with the positive response from the residents of the 15 apartment complexes. "For instance, a total of 12 donors from Prestige Ferns Residency (a residential complex on Haralur main road) came forward to donate used supplies. It was wonderful to see the generosity towards these voiceless animals. These shelters are doing a great job by providing shelter and food to abandoned, sick, and injured animals," said Sharnam Khurana, Sarjapur Chapter Head, St Broseph Foundation.

Meanwhile, Girish Anjanappa of the Animal Rights Fund said that he appreciates the volunteers for conducting the drive. "I want to thank them for spending a few hours at our animal shelter to learn about the ground reality and what the requirements of our animal shelter are. They did a commendable job," he said.

BM Trippin' Tales

Mandaragiri: Trail to scenic beauty

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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Bengaluru-Tumakuru road is a heaven for trekkers, whether amateurs or experts, as the entire stretch (from Dabaspet) is dotted with hillocks of different shapes and sizes. If you are an amateur trekker, then we recommend you try Mandaragiri.

The place is better known as Basadi Betta among locals, though this Jain pilgrimage is referred to as Mandaragiri in religious texts. The monolith is a short climb with around 450 steps in a 60-degree ascent. There are properly laid footsteps with grills so that people of all ages can easily climb. Once we reach the summit point, there is a Jain temple. It is a complex of four temples, two dedicated to Chandranatha and the rest to Parshwanatha and Suparshwanatha. The temple is open on special occasions.

The best part of Mandaragiri is that, crossing the temple, one can get breathtaking views of the nearby hillocks. If you happen to be at this place during sunrise or sunset, then you are guaranteed a click of your life (provided it is a clear sky). It is also known for a number of paintings dotting the rocks that range from Tirthankaras to animals.

Another highlight of the hill are the boulders that appear in different shapes and sizes. A few of the boulders can be a real treat for a photographer, as the same rock looks different from different sides. If you are brave enough and have a localalite accompanying you, then you can take the descent towards a nearby lake. While returning from Mandaragiri summit point, one can head to the nearby 81-foot-high Guru Mandir, which is in the shape of a peacock. Next to it is a statue of Chandranatha Tirthankara. If you are a foodie, then there are a number of hotels that specialise in offering 'tatte idli'. In fact, many people travel here on weekends to relish tatte idlis, which are served with spicy groundnut chutneys. This delicacy is so popular that it is preferred over regular dosas, pulav, or even lemon rice.

How to travel?

Hit the Tumakuru road till Dobbaspet. A few kilometres from Dobbspet, take a right turn onto the road that leads to a village named Panditahalli. The best landmark for identification is an arch at the road entrance. There is a fairly decent road to the foothills where one can park vehicles and start trekking.

The place is pretty clean, and the trekkers are requested to maintain the same cleanliness.

It is also better that you stick to the route and don't stray, as one could easily lose their way in the wilderness, and it can be quite dangerous too.

It is also suggested to go with a localite, who knows the place really well. The approximate distance from Bengaluru is 63 kilometres.

KAUSHIK JN

Show of support

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a roadshow in support of Congress candidate from Bengaluru South Sowmya Reddy at Jayanagar, on Monday

Lingayat seer to contest against Pralhad Joshi

Seer accuses both national parties of having betrayed people of Dharwad constituency

A prominent Lingayat seer on Monday announced his decision to contest as an independent candidate against Union Minister Pralhad Joshi in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, accusing the BJP leader of misusing the Lingayat Maths and causing disrespect to them to stay in power.

Fakira Dingaleshwar Swami of Shirahatti Fakkireshwar Math said he has decided to fight the election as an independent from Dharwad Lok Sabha segment against Joshi. The seer also accused Congress of neglecting Lingayats after coming to power, and not giving suitable positions to leaders of caliber from the community.

Responding to the Swami's decision, Joshi said: "There is no reaction to Dingaleshwar Swami...whatever he says, it is blessings for me."

Repeatedly targeting Joshi, the seer accused him of "suppressing" Veerashaiva-Lingayat and other communities, and also misusing the Lingayat maths and causing disrespect to them to stay in power.

"I am announcing my candidature as an independent from the Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency. As you are aware, the national parties have announced their candidates and people in the Dharwad constituency and nearby segments feel that both parties have entered into election fixing like match fixing," Dingaleshwar Swami alleged.

Speaking to reporters here, he accused both national parties of having betrayed the people of the Dharwad constituency.

"While the two parties have fielded their candidates, voters of Dharwad have decided to field me as their candidate. This is a 'Dharma Yuddha' declared by those who value their dignity and 'Kaavidhaaris', against two national parties and selfish politicians," the swami said, adding, he is entering politics to create political awareness among people.

"There should be no politics in 'Dharma' and there should be 'Dharma' in politics -- is the desire of the people, and I will continue this even after the polls," he said, adding that his

Fakira Dingaleshwar Swami of Shirahatti Fakkireshwar Math to fight the election as an independent

"Dharma Yuddha" will continue till the end of his life in favour of oppressed communities and their leaders.

A few seers in the Dharwad region, especially those from Lingayat community, met in Hubballi on March 27 under the leadership of Dingaleshwar Swami and asked BJP central leadership to replace Joshi as candidate. They had given the party time till March 31 to decide.

At that meeting it was decided that "like in the north", Swamijis in the south too should work in the political field and contest elections.

—PTI

Case against Yatnal for Pak remark

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has been booked for calling the Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao's house 'half Pakistan'.

On a complaint by Rao's wife Tabassum Rao alias Tabu Rao, a Muslim, an FIR has been registered against Yatnal, a former Union Minister, for malignant and wanton provocation under section 153B of the IPC, a police officer told PTI.

"There is Pakistan in Gundu Rao's house. There is half Pakistan in his house," Yatnal said on Sunday.

Tabassum expressed indignation and slammed Yatnal. "Is it the BJP's politics? They can speak about the issues. They say 'Bharat Mata' but can't they respect women?" she said. —PTI

Collision with Karandlaje car: 1 dead

A Bharatiya Janata Party worker died after allegedly he crashed into the open door of a car belonging to Union Minister of State for Agriculture Shobha Karandlaje at KR Puram on Monday.

The BJP worker identified as Prakash allegedly died after a vehicle ran over him following his collision with Karandlaje's car while on election campaign in Vinayakanagar. The Union minister's car has been seized by the Traffic police. Karandlaje said, "It was unfortunate that our party loyal worker Prakash who used to campaign for us died. The incident happened unexpectedly, we are with his family. We will do whatever we can for the family, car is mine..."

—ANI

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How refused rides by autos sully mobility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2023, cases dropped by around 29% with 1,537 cases registered as against 2,183 cases registered in 2022.

While auto unions complain of lack of enforcement by authorities, they also point out that fare revision is not uniform in Karnataka.

"While some auto-rickshaw drivers have disregard for the authorities and norms, the problem also lies in enforcement authorities not taking necessary action. RTO officials and traffic police should conduct regular checks and ensure enforcement of rules.

Such violations can be easily seen near metro stations alone. Compared to aggregator platforms, auto-rickshaw drivers are charging a much higher rate. There is also a need for better training for auto-rickshaw drivers.

In Maharashtra, you will hardly find auto-rickshaw drivers refusing rides; we need to analyse why this mandate is not strictly implemented in Bengaluru," said Rudramurthy, general secretary, Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU).

He added that the problem also lies in the non-revision of fares. "The last fare revision happened in 2021, the fare revised to Rs 30 for two km from Rs 25, and Rs 13 to Rs 15 for every subsequent km. Additionally, the fare revision is not uniform across the state. In places like Managaluru and Udupi, the fare has been revised to Rs 40 for two km and Rs 20 for every subsequent km. We are requesting the government to revise the fare regularly," he added.

Mobility experts BM spoke to added that if the government cannot enforce the rules, it should consider other market solutions that will meet the supply with the demand.

"Most auto-rickshaw drivers often refuse rides because they do not wish to go in the direction of the customer. While prohibition for refusal to hire has been part of their licencing, enforcement has not been successful over the years. Hence, we need to look at new market solutions that could provide solutions.

For example, a zone-wise operation of the drivers and a digital meter system that signifies which zone the auto driver is willing to go. But if the auto driver opens his services for all of Bengaluru, he gets to charge an additional 10 per cent more on the ride," said Ashwin Mahesh, mobility expert.

Udupi connect: Meet the man behind landmark free-trade agreement

After 16 years of negotiations, India and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries in March signed a free-trade agreement (FTA), which may be instrumental in India receiving $100 billion as foreign direct investment (FDI) in 15 years with one million jobs. There is a Karnataka connection to this landmark deal. Dr Niklaus-Samuel Gugger, best known as Nik Gugger, is an Indian-born Swiss politician who is said to have played an instrumental role in the agreement being signed. Gugger currently serves as a member of the National Council (Switzerland).

In 1970, a widow, Anasuya, gave birth to a boy at the CSI Basel Mission Hospital in Udupi. Unable to keep the child, she gave him up to Dr Marianne Pflugfelder, and trusted the missionary hospital to find the best place for him. While several orphan kids live an underprivileged life, Gugger was rescued by a Swiss couple Fritz and Elizabeth, who adopted and named him Niklaus-Samuel Gugger.

The commerce and industry ministry has said that the agreement will increase Indian industry's access to the EU market where the country is looking to sign another FTA, while adding that the EFTA is offering 92.2% of its tariff lines, which cover 99.6% of India's exports. The agreement also covers tariff concession on processed agricultural products (PAP) from India. India is

Niklaus-Samuel Gugger

offering 82.7% of its tariff lines, which covers 95.3% of EFTA exports, nearly 80% of which is in gold.

Swiss watches and chocolates will enjoy the elimination of duty after seven years and concessions are also expected to help India import machinery at cheaper rates. India has provided concessions on 105 of 156 sub-sectors, including areas like accounting, business, and health within services. On the other hand, EFTA countries have provided concessions in over 110 sub-sectors including accounting, auditing, and legal. India exports services worth over $5 billion to EFTA regions.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, Nik noted that Switzerland and India have always had a cordial relationship, with both the countries having celebrated 75 years of friendship. He referred to Switzerland and India signing the 'Treaty of Friendship and Establishment' on August 14, 1948.

This was the first-of-its-kind, and one of the very first bilateral agreements concluded by the newly independent India. He further expressed his joy over being able to contribute back to the country he was born in by playing a significant role in the recent FTA being signed. Explaining that the negotiations once again began close to one and half years ago, Nik said that as challenges arose, they were overcome by diplomacy and hearing all the stakeholders involved.

Deeming his life no less than a Bollywood story Nik delved into his personal life. Growing up in Switzerland, Gugger worked as a gardener, drove trucks and went to school, earning a degree in mechanical engineering.

Further he went on to study social work, management and innovation along with political communication as well as emergency psychology. He has been provided with an honorary doctor's title by the Kalinga Institute Orissa for his work on social science and has set up several educational programs in India.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

WE Manav Ghosh & Damay - anti Ghosh R/o #107 Saroj Habitat, 56/2 Shirdi Sai Main, Munnekolala, B'lore 560037 have Changed our child's name from Orhan Ghosh to Pramoda Ghosh for all purposes.

PUBLIC notice I N Shakthi Shankar hereby change my name to Mohammed Ameen vide affidavit IN-KA57262466811400W henceforth for all purposes.

I, Pramila Bejai Udaya Shetty r/o #17/15 Mandara 2nd Floor 14th Main Bank Colony Srinivas Nagar BSK 1st Stage B'luru-560050 Have Changed My Name to Pramila Udaya Shetty for all Purposes.

I, Mohammed Ibrahim Alias Mohammed Munawar Pasha s/o Abdul Subhan r/o #58 3rd Cross, Rama Mandira Road Kothanur Main Rd, Harinagar, Anjanapura, B'luru-560062 have Changed my Name to Mohammed Munawar Pasha for all Purposes.

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I Bannuth Himsagar S/O, Bannuth Sreeramulu R/o G1 K&t Greenland Residency Doddathogur Electronic City Phase 1 Banglore 560100 have changed my name to Bannuth Himasagar .

I, REENA KUMARI, W/o Lalan Kumar Pandey R/o Flat-A003, Plot-50 4th A Cross Manjunatha Homes Abbaiah Reddy Layout Kaggadaspura B'luru-560093 have changed my name to REENA PANDEY vide affidavit dated: 08/04/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore

I, Karthikeyan S/O, Shankar S R/o 8/1,shiva Shakthi Nilayam,1st Cross,chelkere Circle, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to Karthikeyan S for all purposes.

I, Jayashankara Malur Narayanappa r/o #65 Manasa Reddy Choultry Road Maruthi Extn Malur Kolar-563130 Have Changed My Name to Jayashankar Malur Narayanappa for all Purposes.

I Dushyant S/o Pawanjit Singh Jasrotia R/o #140 D Block DS max Sandalwood apt,Nagasandra B'lore-560073 have changed my name to Dushyant Jasrotia.

I Vinayak Naregal S/O, Nilakanth Naregal R/o 35, Veeresh Nilaya, Prashanth Nagar 1st Main, Sadhankeri 5th Cross Hubballi-dharwad City, 580008 Karnataka, India. have changed my name to Vinayak Nilakanth Naregal.

I, Shifa Syed Khwaja Pasha W/o Syed Khwaja Pasha R/at No.1714, Ward No.22, Near Katta Nanjappa School, J.P Nagar, Hospet, Vijayanagara, Karnataka-583201 have change my name to Shifa Madina Patel, affidavit dt: 08.04.2024 Notary M. Rajendra, B.lore.

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HEALTH TIP: While it may seem fancy to take vitamin supplements daily, regular consumption without consulting a doctor may be detrimental to your health

Remember to apply waterproof sunscreen with at least SPF 30 or higher before spending a day in the sun

All you need to know about...

Triggers for UTI

Dehydration
With the onset of summer and temperatures soaring, dehydration is likely to be the key reason for UTI. When less water is consumed there is minimal urination and bacteria builds up. Hence, drinking 6-8 glasses of water flushes out the toxins from the body.

Holding Your Pee
Holding your pee for a long time leads to multiplication of bacteria which can be a contributing factor for UTI. It's important to drink water throughout the day and not hold the bladder for more than 6 hours at a stretch.

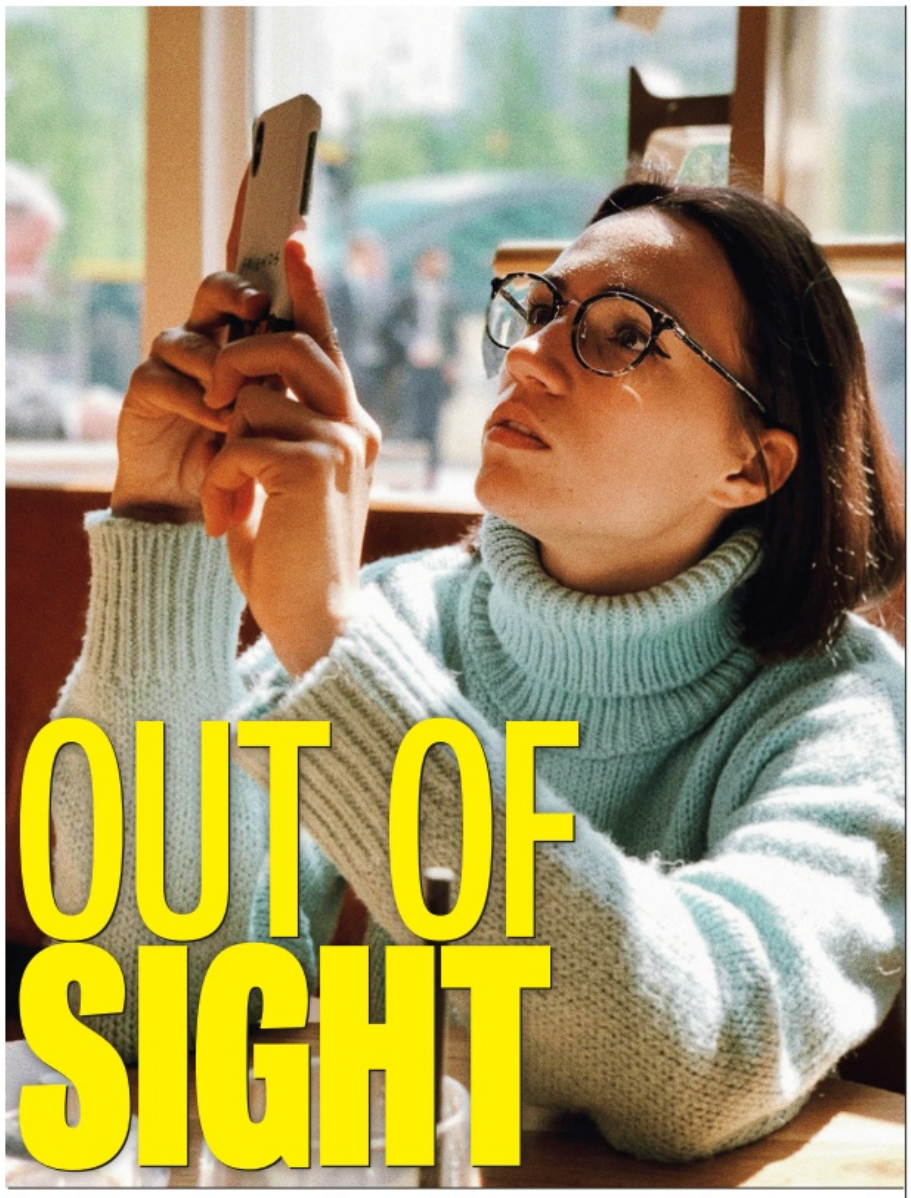
Tight Clothes
Body hugging and tight clothes, especially this summer, are a complete NO-NO! Tight undergarments, thongs, pants and even tight workout wear don't allow the vagina to breathe and hence hold the bacteria.

Pregnancy
UTI is extremely common during pregnancy as the growing foetus can put pressure on the bladder and urinary tract. Women are even susceptible to UTI during and after child birth. In such cases the doctor should be informed so that proper care is provided.

Honeymoon Cystitis
After 1st intercourse, some women can have a urine infection. It's not uncommon to have UTI after the first intercourse. Empty your bladder after intercourse and drink a lot of water which helps to flush out the infection. If needed, consult with your doctor and take antibiotics.

Menopause
Vaginal skin becomes relatively thin due to lack of estrogen in menopausal women. Female urethra is in close proximity to vagina which makes women more vulnerable to UTI.

—Dr. Vaishali Joshi, for Femina



OUT OF SIGHT

Could my glasses be making my eyesight worse?

So, you got your eyesight tested and found out you need your first pair of glasses. Or you found out you need a stronger pair than the ones you have. You put them on and everything looks crystal clear. But after a few weeks things look blurrier without them than they did before your eye test. What's going on?

Some people start to wear spectacles for the first time and perceive their vision is "bad" when they take their glasses off. They incorrectly interpret this as the glasses making their vision worse. Fear of this might make them less likely to wear their glasses.

But what they are noticing is how much better the world appears through the glasses. They become less tolerant of a blurry world when they remove them.

Here are some other things you might notice about eyesight and wearing glasses.

Lazy eyes?

Some people sense an increasing reliance on glasses and wonder if their eyes have become "lazy".

Our eyes work in much the same way as an auto-focus camera. A flexible lens inside each eye is controlled by muscles that let us focus on objects in the distance (such as a footy scoreboard) by relaxing the muscle to flatten the lens. When the muscle contracts it makes the lens steeper and more powerful to see things that are much closer to us (such as a text message).

From the age of about 40, the lens in our eye progressively hardens and loses its ability to change shape. Gradually, we lose our capacity to focus on near objects. This is called "presbyopia" and at the moment there are no treatments for this lens hardening.

Optometrists correct this with prescription glasses that take the load of your natural lens. The lenses allow you to see those up-close images clearly by providing extra refractive power.

Once we are used to seeing clearly, our tolerance for blurry vision will be lower and we will reach for the glasses to see well again.

The wrong glasses?

Wearing old glasses, the wrong prescription (or even someone else's glasses) won't allow you to see as well as possible for day-to-day tasks. It could also cause eye-strain and headaches.

Incorrectly prescribed or dispensed prescription glasses can lead to vision impairment in children as their visual system is still in development.

But it is more common for kids to develop long-term vision problems as a result of not wearing glasses when they need them.

By the time children are about 10–12 years of age, wearing incorrect spectacles is less likely to cause their eyes to become lazy or damage vision in the long term, but it is likely to result in blurry or uncomfortable vision during daily wear.

Registered optometrists in Australia are trained to assess refractive error (whether the eye focuses light into the retina) as well as the different aspects of ocular function (including how the eyes work together, change focus, move around to see objects). All of these help us see clearly and comfortably.

What about dirty glasses?

Dirty or scratched glasses can give you the impression your vision is worse than it actually is. Just like a window, the dirtier your glasses are, the more difficult it is to see clearly through them. Cleaning glasses regularly with a microfibre lens cloth will help.

While dirty glasses are not commonly associated with eye infections, some research suggests dirty glasses can harbour bacteria with the remote but theoretical potential to cause eye infection.

To ensure best possible vision, people who wear prescription glasses every day should clean their lenses at least every morning and twice a day where required. Cleaning frames with alcohol wipes can reduce bacterial contamination by 96% – but care should be taken as alcohol can damage some frames, depending on what they are made of.

When should I get my eyes checked?

Regular eye exams, starting just before school age, are important for ocular health. Most prescriptions for corrective glasses expire within two years and contact lens prescriptions often expire after a year. So you'll need an eye check for a new pair every year or so.

Kids with ocular conditions such as progressive myopia (short-sightedness), strabismus (poor eye alignment), or amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye) will need checks at least every year, but likely more often. Likewise, people over 65 or who have known eye conditions, such as glaucoma, will be recommended more frequent checks.

An online prescription estimator is no substitute for a full eye examination. If you have a valid prescription then you can order glasses online, but you miss out on the ability to check the fit of the frame or to have them adjusted properly. This is particularly important for multifocal lenses where even a millimetre or two of misalignment can cause uncomfortable or blurry vision.

Conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure, can affect the eyes so regular eye checks can also help flag broader health issues. The vast majority of eye conditions can be treated if caught early, highlighting the importance of regular preventative care.

(By James Armitage and Nick Hockley, Deakin University, The Conversation)

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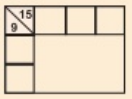
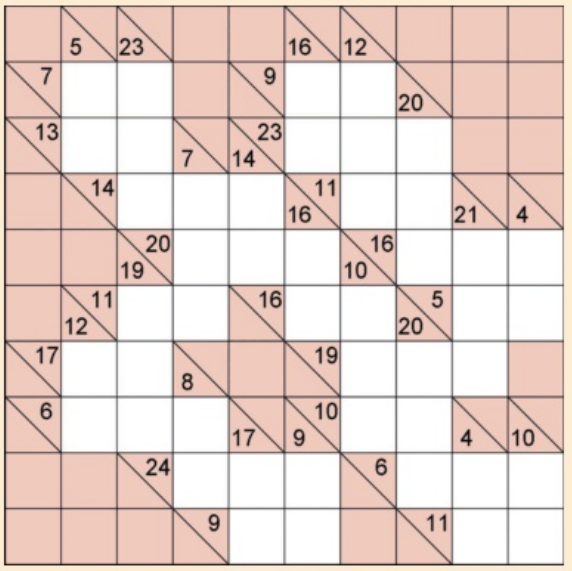
Kakuro

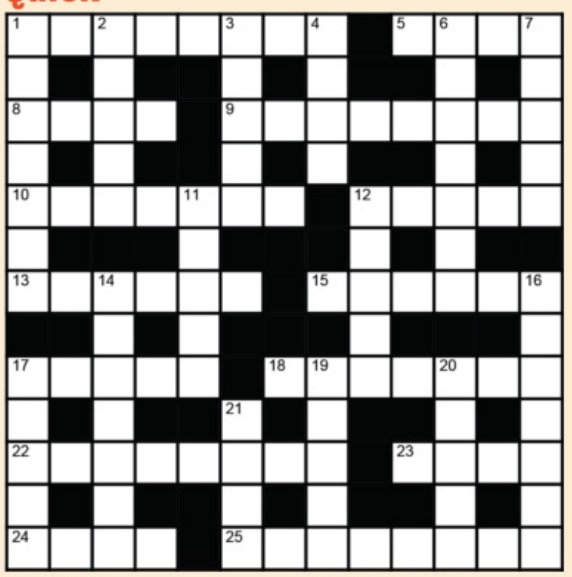
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Timely (8)
5 Distinctive doctrines (4)
8 Under-cooked (4)
9 Opera texts (8)
10 Giving false notion of ? (7)
12 A man-made waterway (5)
13 Bends forward (6)
15 Minor difficulty (6)
17 Fall guy (5)
18 Policeman (7)
22 50 kms from Bangalore, this area is a favourite for rock climbers (8)
23 Asian hot spot (4)
24 Sweet potatoes (4)
25 Type of garment (3-5)

DOWN

1 Writers (7)
2 Of the ear (5)
3 Man-made fibre (5)
4 Course requirements (4)
6 Diabolical (7)
7 Motionless (5)
11 Suggest (5)
12 Foremost (5)
14 The best possible conditions (7)
16 Like a pig (7)
17 Ward off (5)
19 Strong point (5)
20 Duplicate (5)
21 Exchange premium (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS Y

KUWH YB SHUL BS FHLSHEJM-BY – ZBX'NN YHWHL LHUEK MJ.

Linemaro

You're single. I'm single. Coincidence? I think not

Mindchow

The older I get, the smarter my dad gets

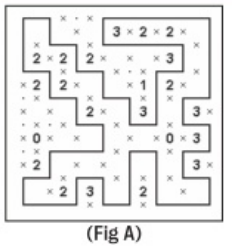
Joke of the day

The fastest way to meet new people is to pick up somebody else's change at a cocktail bar

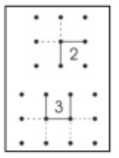
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

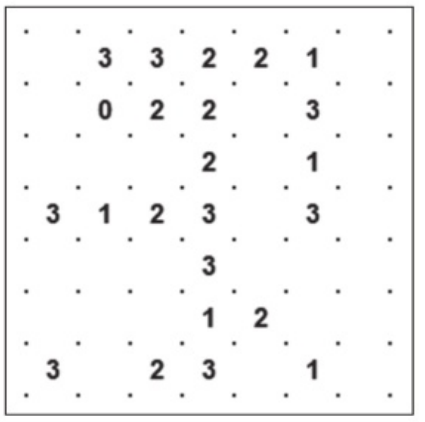


(Fig B) Not Allowed

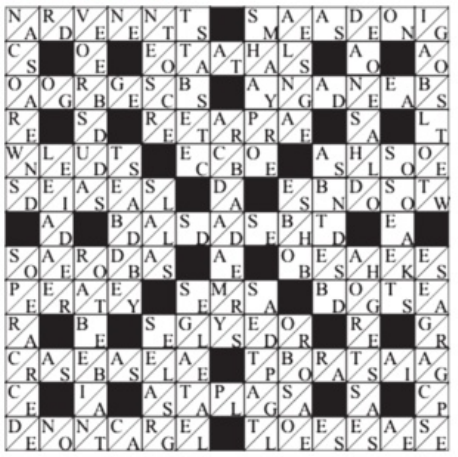
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6		M		
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Paces; 6 Mated; 7 Organ; 8 I peon; 9 Red in

DOWN

1 To-dos; 2 C pair; 3 Mania; 4 NE pen; 5 Greed

Mensapuzzle

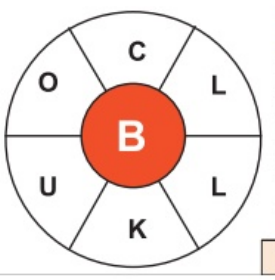
What number should logically replace the question mark?

535 : 7580 : 852

483 : 9642 : 716

723 : ? : 633

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6						5	
1			3		8			4
		7	5		9	1		
5		9				2		7
	3		2		1		4	
8		2				6		1
		8	4		3	9		
6			7		5			8
	5						7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

2 4 6 7

Medium = 8

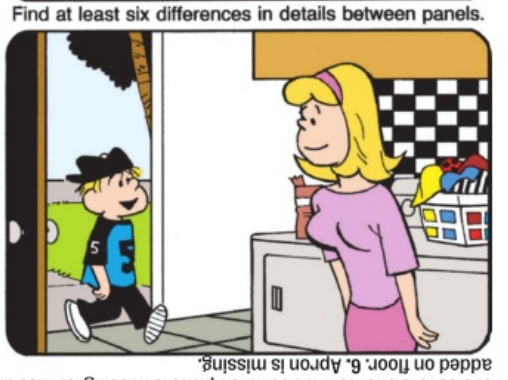
2 5 9 9

Hard = 30

3 7 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



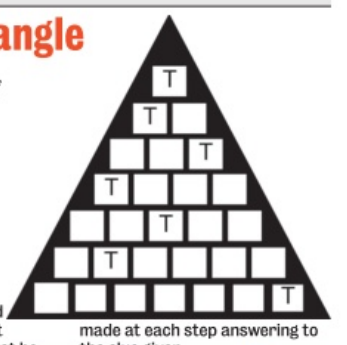
Differences: 1. Hair band is different. 2. Cabinet is wider. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Doorknob plate is missing. 5. Tiles are added on floor. 6. Apron is missing.

Riddler

What is this phrase? Go and and and and <-- x

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 In the direction of
3 Nae
4 Sound quality
5 Musical symbols
6 Purloined
7 Most protracted

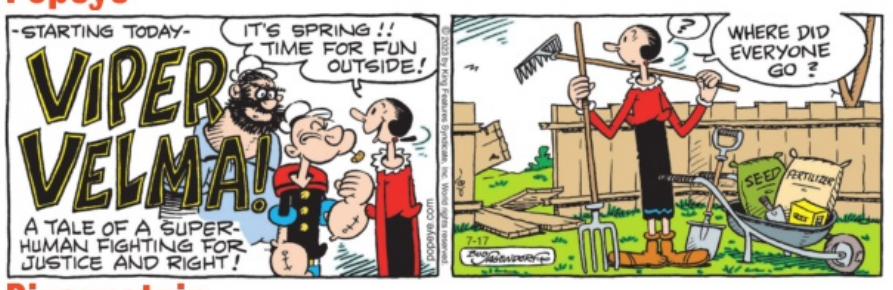


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

I JUST FINISHED READING A BOOK!
IT WAS CALLED "THE HISTORY OF CLONING"!
SO YOU LIKED IT?
I WAS BESIDE MYSELF!
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Hart of the city

MAYBE MIKE DOESN'T REALLY HATE YOU. MAYBE IT'S ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING. LET'S TALK TO HIM.
I THINK FOR OUR PROJECT WE SHOULD REENACT THE DEATH OF JULIUS CAESAR.
HOLD ON, LIV. WE NEED TO GET TO SERIOUS BUSINESS FIRST.
HOW IS TALKING ABOUT OUR PROJECT NOT SERIOUS BUSINESS?
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Crankshaft

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED TO HEAR YOUR DAD QUOTE A SCIENCE FICTION WRITER.
WHAT SURPRISES ME...
IS THE FACT THAT ANYTHING MY DAD DOES SURPRISES YOU!
BATIUK & DAVIS
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1-6

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your speaking style might help you in resolving many problems and may plan for a house or vehicle loan. You may also plan for some advanced courses to enhance your skills, which may be beneficial for your career in the near future. Lovebirds may enjoy their romantic moments. You may be able to control your opponents and rivals.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with your children and likely travel for their education. You may plan for a change in your current job or may also plan for higher education to enhance your career. You may hear some good news in terms of competitive examinations. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may likely have a change in your place or position. You are advised to read any document carefully before signing it. You are also advised to be careful in terms of your parent's health. Investments in risky assets may lead to losses, so it is suggested to postpone making investments for some days.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Toda, you are blessed by the moon, so you may be energetic, and you may make fast decisions in terms of your business. Your subordinates may help you complete your project on time, which may increase trust in the environment. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now. Natives who are on the job may get some incentives in terms of promotions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may control your straightforwardness, which may affect terms with the people around you. You may plan to renovate your house, and you may also spend money on buying some artefacts. You may likely enjoy some social events, which may increase your network. You may also invest some capital in your family business.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon and it will make you confident, which may reflect on your way of working. You may feel healthy after a sound sleep and you may enjoy every moment. Old health issues may be resolved now. You may be willing to help some needy people, which may increase your respect for those around you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel unhappy, dull and unhealthy. It affects your way of working, and there may be some delay in completion of your current projects, which may lead to arrogance in nature. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rush-hour driving. Lovebirds may have some breakups.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may likely get some big orders, which may increase your business. With the help of some influential people, you may be more likely to get benefits at work. You may also expect promotions. Job seekers may find a suitable job. You may plan to renovate your house or office, which will enhance your status. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your loved one.

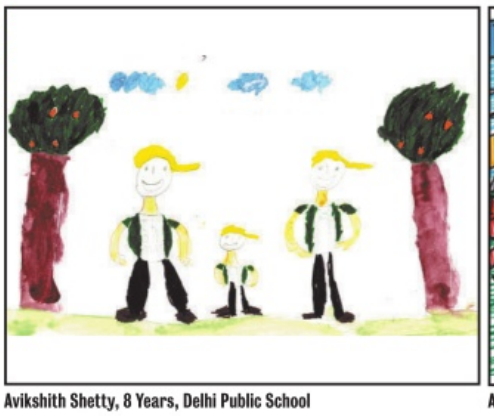
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work. Work overload may make you tired mentally and you may not be able to enjoy some family events or you may arrive very late, which can affect your domestic harmony. Your efficiency may be praised by your seniors, which may lead to a promotion in your current job.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the elders'. The crunch of the last few days may be resolved now and destiny may help you. Your stopped projects may likely start automatically. Money that was stuck may be likely to be recovered. You may also plan a religious trip with family members, which may increase your inner strength. You may get a chance for an overseas trip or long-distance travel as well.

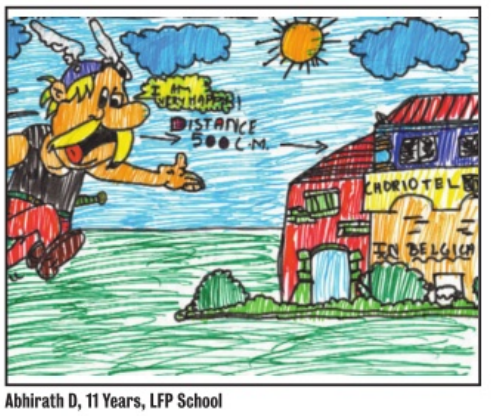
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be affected by a negative moon, which may make you upset and arrogant. You may be ready for sudden and unexpected changes in your daily routine. Your profits may be converted into losses, so it is advised to postpone making investments for some days. You may be in the self-exploration stage, which may lead you towards the reality of life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Money that was stuck may be recovered now, which may increase liquidity in your business. You may be in a leading position in your office in terms of the project. You may be likely to get incentives in terms of promotions. Bonding with the spouse may likely improve, which may create domestic harmony.

KIDZONE



Avikshith Shetty, 8 Years, Delhi Public School



Abhirath D, 11 Years, LFP School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
{5i ÷ 4i = 5•4i ÷ 4i = 5}
[(√4+√9+√16+√25+√36)^1/2] ÷ 5]^1/2
=[(2+3+4+5+6) ÷ 5]^1/2
=[(20) ÷ 5]^1/2
= 4^1/2 = 2

STRIKE OUT

A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	S	E	A	D	O	G
C	E	O	A	T	H	S	■	O	■	O	■	■	■	O
O	R	E	S	■	A	N	A	N	A	S	■	■	■	S
R	S	■	E	T	A	P	E	■	A	L	S	O	■	L
N	E	U	T	■	E	C	E	■	A	L	S	O	W	■
S	I	S	A	L	■	A	■	E	N	D	O	W	■	■
C	A	B	A	L	A	■	P	O	R	T	I	A	■	■
A	B	■	S	L	Y	E	R	■	R	■	■	■	■	■
P	R	A	Y	■	E	M	S	■	D	O	S	E	■	■
S	E	R	B	S	■	E	■	B	E	A	K	S	■	■
■	D	■	B	A	D	D	E	B	T	■	A	■	■	■
S	T	O	O	P	S	■	H	I	C	U	P	■	■	■
■	■	P	■	L	■	■	■	E	■	■	O	■	■	■
P	A	T	S	Y	■	O	F	F	I	C	E	R	■	■
A	■	I	■	A	■	O	■	L	■	C	■	■	■	■
R	A	M	N	A	G	A	R	■	G	O	B	I	■	■
■	N	■	I	■	T	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	■	■
R	A	T	L	A	S	■	A	■	A	■	P	■	■	■
E	I	■	U	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	O	T	A	G	E	■	L	E	S	S	E	■	■	■

QUICK

S	E	A	S	O	N	A	L	■	I	S	M	S	■	■
C	U	■	Y	■	A	■	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	A	R	E	■	L	I	B	R	E	T	T	I	■	■
I	■	A	■	O	■	S	■	A	■	■	L	■	■	■
B	E	L	V	I	N	G	■	C	A	N	A	L	■	■
■	E	■	M	■	■	■	H	■	■	■	E	■	■	■
S	T	O	O	P	S	■	H	I	C	U	P	■	■	■
■	■	P	■	L	■	■	■	E	■	■	O	■	■	■
P	A	T	S	Y	■	O	F	F	I	C	E	R	■	■
A	■	I	■	A	■	O	■	L	■	C	■	■	■	■
R	A	M	N	A	G	A	R	■	G	O	B	I	■	■
■	N	■	I	■	T	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	■	■
R	A	T	L	A	S	■	A	■	A	■	P	■	■	■
E	I	■	U	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Y	A	M	S	■	O	N	E	P	I	E	C	E	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
4254: the centre number in each row is the product of the digits on the left, followed by the product of the digits on the right, ie 7 × 2 × 3 = 42 and 6 × 3 × 3 = 54.

RIDDLER
Go forth and multiply

SUDOKU

4	5	1	8	9	6	3	7	2
6	9	3	7	2	5	4	1	8
2	7	8	4	1	3	9	6	5
8	4	2	9	5	7	6	3	1
7	3	6	2	8	1	5	4	9
5	1	9	6	3	4	2	8	7
3	8	7	5	4	9	1	2	6
1	2	5	3	6	8	7	9	4
9	6	4	1	7	2	8	5	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, TO, NOT, TONE, NOTES, STOLEN, LONGEST.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 – 2 + 7 + 4 = 15
9 / 9 + 2 + 5 = 8
Medium
5 x 8 – 7 – 3 = 30
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

7	1	6	9	7	2	4	8	3
13	4	9	7	9	6	8	3	1
24	7	9	8	6	3	1	2	11
6	3	2	1	17	9	5	4	10
12	8	9	2	16	7	3	1	5
19	2	8	4	9	7	20	5	4
16	9	7	5	11	4	10	8	3
14	8	1	6	15	16	7	21	4
9	5	23	9	14	7	20	6	8
11	7	1	6	9	2	8	3	2
9	6	4	1	7	2	8	5	3

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	P	E
T	A	M	E	D
O	R	A	N	G
O	P	I	N	E
D	I	N	E	R

BULL'S EYE
block, boll, buck, bulk, bull, bullock, club

QUOTE UNCODE
Have no fear of perfection – you'll never reach it.

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Best wishes

Hat-trick hero Dr Shivarajkumar has always encouraged newcomers. Recently, Dr Shivarajkumar released the first look poster of the movie Victoria Mansion, where he said that when more newcomers enter Sandalwood, there would be a variety of scripts. "The quality of the poster is very good. It looks like a product of people with a lot of experience in Sandalwood. Let your attempts and hard work continue. I wish the cast and crew all the best," said Dr Shivarajkumar. Director-cum-producer R Chandru was present on the occasion.

Victoria Mansion is being bankrolled by Umesh KS, who has worked as an in-charge of digital publicity for more than 400 Kannada movies, including R Chandru's movies, under the Sri Padmavathi Productions banner. Rajesh Balipa is helming the movie apart from working as a co-producer. "It is my second movie as a director. Shwetha - a heroine-oriented movie, was my first movie in 2017. Victoria Mansion is about the horrific incidents that took place at Hanumagiri village in 1990. It also shows the traditions and superstitions of that village and how the archaeological department reveals the secret behind those incidents. It is a crime suspense thriller," said Rajesh Balipa, adding that the movie's shooting is expected to be wrapped up in six days.

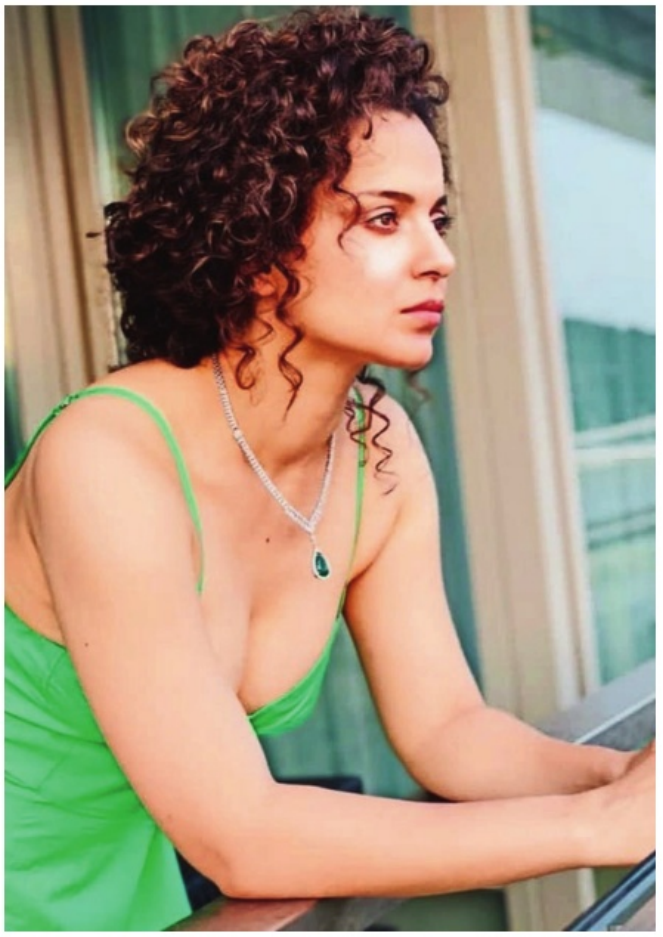
A major portion of the shooting was held in Bangalore Studios at KR Puram, Mangaluru, Moodabidri, Chikkamagaluru, and Beluru.

The movie features Rajesh,

Kaseema, Mimicry Gopi, Matakoppala, Sridhar, Bala Rajwadi, Gurudev Nagaraj, Umesh, Madan, Anji, Hitesh, Palti Govind, Shylaja, and Keerthana.

REV UP

Kangana seems to have added another luxury car to her fast car collection



On Sunday, Kangana Ranaut was photographed in Mumbai cruising in her new Mercedes Maybach. Donning a flowing white dress, the actor exited a salon, attracting the attention of paparazzi who captured her getting into her sleek new car.

Kangana added a second Maybach, a Mercedes-Maybach GL to her collection. The GLS model, priced at 2.43 crore, stands alongside the previously acquired S680, which came with a price tag of 3.6 crore.

One is not sure whether Kangana opted to trade in her previous vehicle for a cheaper option or simply decided to enlarge her variety by including another variant from the same brand.

According to a report by Men's XP, Kangana's car collection also includes a BMW 7-series 730LD, a Mercedes GLE 350D SUV, and an Audi Q3.

Recently, Kangana made headlines by announcing her political debut as she joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). She declared her candidacy for the Mandi constituency in Himachal Pradesh.

Meanwhile on the work front, Kangana's next project is 'Emergency', a film based on the life of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Interestingly, she is not only starring in the film but also directing it. It also stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Satish Kaushik.

—ETimes

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